

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 27, 2002 LB 642, 722

opposed nay. We're voting on advancement of LB 642 to E & R Initial. Have you all voted who care to? We're voting on the advancement of LB 642. Have you all voted who wish to? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 642.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 642 advances to E & R Initial. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 722 was a bill introduced by Senator Schimek. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 17 of last year, referred to the Government Committee. Bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President. (AM0328, Legislative Journal page 928, First Session, 2001.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open on LB 722.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This bill was brought to me by General Lempke and the National Guard, and the bill was heard on February 28th of last year and was advanced quickly to the floor, but it didn't have a priority status and it lingered on, and events intervening have probably made the bill even more important and critical than they were perhaps when the bill was first introduced. Because the committee amendments become the bill, I'm going to start by opening just telling you a little bit about why the bill is being introduced and what some of the problems were, and I may roll over into the committee amendments but, if so, that's okay, I'll just continue then on the introduction of the committee amendments. Currently, Nebraska's Revised Statutes allows employees of the state and political subdivisions a paid leave of absence to perform National Guard and Reserve duty. The leave of absence is limited to 15 workdays in a calendar year. The use of the term "workdays" in the current statute has resulted in confusion and litigation. Law enforcement officers and firefighters often work night shifts ranging from 10 to 24 hours. A literal interpretation of 15 workdays would result in